

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 2, 2004, Applicants have amended the claims for clarity and to further distinguish over the art of record, and respectfully request reconsideration. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 14 and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11, 15-17 and 29 have been amended and new claims 33 and 34 have been added. As a result claims 1-13, 15-27 and 29-34 are now pending for examination with claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 29, 33 and 34 being independent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants note with appreciation that claim 28 has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

A. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 have been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner stated that claim 1 was unclear because "assigning a conference I.D. number has no format." Applicants have amended claim 1 to specify that the conference I.D. number includes a plurality of digits and that the conference I.D. number is divided into a first portion including at least one digit and a second portion including at least one digit. Claim 1, as amended, also specifies that the input sequence is derived "from the first portion of the conference I.D. number through a predetermined mapping" and that the PIN is derived second portion of the conference I.D. number through a predetermined mapping." Thus, claim 1, as amended provides a format for the conference I.D. number and a relationship between the input sequence and the conference I.D. number. Applicants believe that claim 1, as amended, is sufficiently clear and in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Dependent claims 2 and 4-6 have been amended such that their language is consistent with claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

B. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 7-18, 20, 22, 25, 27 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,330,320 to Cornell et al (hereinafter Cornell). Applicants have amended independent claims 7, 11, 17 and 29, overcoming this rejection.

The Examiner asserts that Cornell discloses all the limitations recited in Applicants' independent claims 7, 11, 17 and 29. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 7, 11, 17 and 29 to recite the feature previously recited in dependent claim 28 which was indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, each independent claim 7, 11, 17 and 29 should now be in condition for allowance.

Specifically, independent claim 7, as amended recites "receiving information derived from a telephone number upon which a call from a subscriber unit is received, the telephone number including a first string of digits" and "deriving, from the PIN and the information derived from the telephone number, a conference I.D. number that includes a second string of digits at least partly derived from the first string of digits." These features, previously recited in claim 28, are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art of record, as acknowledged by the Examiner in allowing claim 28. Accordingly, claim 7, as amended, is not anticipated by the art of record and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 11, as amended, recites "receiving information derived from an input sequence entered by a subscriber unit, the input sequence including a first string of digits" and "deriving, from the PIN and the information derived from the input sequence, a conference I.D. number that includes a second string of digits, at least a portion of the second string of digits being derived from the first string of digits." These features are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art of record, as acknowledged by the Examiner in allowing claim 28. Thus, claim 11, as amended, is not anticipated by the art of record and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 17, as amended, incorporates previously-pending claim 28 and recites "wherein the conference I.D. number includes a second string of digits, at least a portion of the second string of digits being derived from the first string of digits." This feature, previously recited in claim 28, is not disclosed or suggested in the prior art of record, as admitted by the Examiner in allowing claim 28. Accordingly, claim 17, as amended, is not anticipated by the art of record and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 is respectfully requested.

Similarly, independent claim 29, as amended, recites "receiving information derived from an input sequence entered by a conferee, the input sequence comprising a first string of digits" and "generating a conference I.D. number including a second string of digits derived from at least a portion of the first string of digits and the PIN." These features, previously recited in claim 28, are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art of record, as acknowledged by the Examiner is allowing claim 28. Thus, claim 29, as amended, is not anticipated by the art of record and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 28 have been canceled in view of the amendments to their respective base claims. Each of dependent claims 8-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 30 and 31 depends from one of independent claims 7, 11, 17 and 29. Because each independent claim now recites a limitation from an allowable claim (claim 28) that is not disclosed or suggested in the art of record, each independent claim is in condition for allowance. Therefore, each dependent claim 8-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 30 and 31 is also allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed for its respective base claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 30 and 31 is respectfully requested.

C. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 16, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 32 stand under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornell in view of other U.S. Patents. Applicants do not agree that any of the combinations of references suggested in the Office Action are proper, nor that the suggested combinations render obvious Applicants' claims. However, each of independent claims 7, 11, 17 and 29 has been amended to recite a limitation from previously-pending claim 28, which was indicated as allowable. Therefore, each of dependent claims 16, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 32, which depends from one of independent claims 7, 11, 17 and 29, is also allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above and as acknowledged with respect to claim 28. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

D. Conclusion

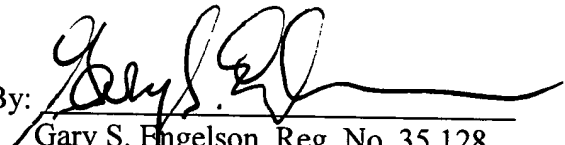
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762.

Respectfully submitted,

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